

ANTIGO DAILY JOURNAL

Obey inspects the results of more funding for after-school programs

April 5, 2008

For Congressman Dave Obey, Friday afternoon's visit to East Elementary School was an illustration of a few of the things he is campaigning for in Washington D.C.



Congressman Dave Obey, flanked by after-school participants, meets the bully meter.

Obey, who represents Wisconsin's Seventh District, which includes Antigo, visited the school for an update on the district's after school program. He secured \$383,370 in federal funds last year for the Cooperative Educational Service Agency No. 9 After-School Consortium of which

Antigo is a member.

But instead of a dry recap of facts and statistics, school officials let the students do the talking, and singing, and play-acting, sharing with the congressman everything from their newfound knowledge of Spanish to anti-bullying tactics before presenting him with a homemade bouquet of flowers.

Obey, munching on a cookie and sipping some coffee, was clearly pleased.

"Research shows that when students have a place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, they also get a better education," he said. "That's why we pushed for more funding for after-school centers in the budget and why I asked for the funds to help keep programs like this going in Wisconsin. I'm glad to be here today to see first hand how things are going here in Antigo."

The Antigo after-school program is intended to provide a safe, healthy, enriching, supervised after-school environment for children in Antigo elementary schools. On average, about 100 students attend the program daily. The program is organized into four to six week sessions with a theme and varied activities during each session. Ongoing activities include homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring, physical fitness activities, field trips, and special monthly "Family Fun Nights."

"There is nothing more important for the future of our children than a good education," Obey noted. "Offering extra help with homework, advanced tutoring and an adult-supervised safe-haven free of trouble, after-school programs like this one help provide students a solid foundation that will help them for the rest of their lives."